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Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 1:33 PM
To: _____
Subject: 2019-290-WS

Dear Ms. Karen Caddell,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2019-290-WS - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and Increase Rates

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-290-WS - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and Increase Rates <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117247>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Becky Latimer



* Required Fields

Letter of Protest

Docket No. 2019-290-WS

Date: * 12-15-2019

Protestant Information:

Name * Karen Caddell
Mailing Address *
City, State Zip * Irmo SC Phone *
E-mail

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a Blue Granite sewer customer.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I protest Blue Granite's proposed rate hike of sewer service to \$101.30 monthly. This equates to \$1,216 annually for SEWER ONLY which is simply egregious for a single, retired person living on a fixed income. In addition, it is unfair that the proposed rate would be the same for commercial properties. The balance of usage and charge is inequitable. I also oppose the "round-up" program. The current sewer rates are already a hardship. Blue Granite needs to solve that problem with their own profits.

*see attached

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

yes

Signature Required:

Karen Caddell

My bill had already increased from \$40 to \$65 in a span of 4 years. That reflected an increase of 65% which I'm sure you will agree is outrageous. And now to increase from \$65 to \$101 is not only egregious but unaffordable for many in my community.

It is my understanding that part of the proposed increase is to reimburse the cost of improvements made. Friarsgate Community customers already paid \$593,000 several years ago for improvements to the Friarsgate station which was recently decommissioned. Two days ago, The State reported on Blue Granite's sludge spill from this station into Rawl's Creek. Their operational malfeasance is intolerable yet we continue to be forced to pay exorbitant rates.

I know you recall Blue Granite's recent loss of the 6 year lawsuit for violating the Federal Clean Water Act. Judge Seymour fined CWS \$1.5 million. Judge Seymour pointed out that "Carolina Water violated federal pollution discharge limits at least 23 different times and the company kept its I-20 plant open for 17 years after it was required to connect with the regional sewer system. During one four-year stretch, the company gained an "economic benefit" of \$689,000 annually. " "Economic benefit often is considered the amount of money saved by a company, person or government for failing to take steps that would control pollution", as quoted from The State Newspaper. That amounts to \$2,756,000 in that 4 year period span. Translated to 17 years, that is almost \$12 million. Obviously that money did not go back into the system or Blue Granite would not have to continually petition for rate increases. It also makes a \$1.5 million fine look rather insignificant. They are also facing current lawsuits from locally owned outfitters for loss of revenue during the 17 days of no access to the Saluda River in July of 2017 due to DHEC's advisories issued because of Blue Granite's violation of pollution discharge limits.

Blue Granite needs to spend from their own accumulated profits from past monies collected from ratepayers and the above mentioned economic benefit gained by their inaction. They need to get control of their fiscal and operational malfeasance before any additional rate increases are granted. They are a regulated monopoly and we cannot take our business elsewhere.

We depend on the Public Service Commission to act in accordance with their mission statement and serve the public by denying the petition of Blue Granite to impose the requested rate hike.